

**NEW HAMPSHIRE SUPREME COURT
MANDATORY APPEAL PROCESS SURVEY**

In January 2004, the New Hampshire Supreme Court amended the Supreme Court rules to make most appeals from state trial court decisions mandatory appeals. The court is in the process of evaluating this change. As part of this process, the court is seeking input from parties and attorneys who have been involved in appeals that were filed after the change took effect.

The following survey seeks information about how the mandatory appeal process is working. Please complete this survey if you have been involved in an appeal filed with the New Hampshire Supreme Court after January 2004. Some of the survey questions ask about particular aspects of the appeal process. If you have been involved in more than one appeal since January 2004, please answer these questions based on your overall experience; you may refer to aspects of individual cases if you think the information would be helpful in evaluating the process.

Your responses will be completely anonymous. Responses will be compiled by non-judicial personnel at the Supreme Court. The justices on the Supreme Court will be provided with a summary of the information contained in the responses; they will not be provided with the responses themselves.

Thank you on behalf of the Supreme Court for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Your participation in the evaluation process is invaluable and will help us improve the appeal process.

Please return the completed survey by August 1, 2005 to:

Mandatory Appeal Survey
New Hampshire Supreme Court
1 Noble Drive
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Eileen Fox, Clerk
New Hampshire Supreme Court

**NEW HAMPSHIRE SUPREME COURT
MANDATORY APPEAL PROCESS SURVEY**

This survey should be completed only by persons involved in appeals filed with the Supreme Court after January 1, 2004.

1. Please indicate the number of Supreme Court appeals filed after January 1, 2004 in which you have been involved.

2. If you filed a notice of mandatory appeal, how did the notice of mandatory appeal form compare to the notice of appeal form used prior to the change in the appeal process?

_____ Mandatory notice of appeal form was easier to complete

_____ Mandatory notice of appeal form was more difficult to complete

_____ Mandatory notice of appeal form and the old form were equally easy or difficult to complete

3. Please list your suggestions for improving the notice of mandatory appeal form.

4. Did any of the appeals in which you were involved require the preparation of a transcript?

_____ Yes _____ No

5. If you paid a deposit for the transcript, please indicate the amount of the deposit that you paid and the final cost of the transcript?

Deposit amount \$_____

Final cost of transcript \$_____

6. If the appeal(s) involved a transcript, approximately how long did it take for the transcript(s) to be completed after the deposit was paid?

7. Did you file a brief or a memorandum in the appeal?

_____ Brief

_____ Memorandum

_____ Did not file a brief or memorandum

8. If you filed a brief(s), did you find the 35-page limit adequate to develop your argument?

_____ Yes

_____ No

9. If the appeal(s) in which you were involved has been concluded, was the case scheduled for oral argument?

_____ Yes

_____ No

10. If the appeal(s) was scheduled for oral argument, was the argument before a 3JX panel or the full court?

_____ 3JX

_____ Full court

11. Did you feel that you had sufficient time to present your oral argument?

_____ Yes

_____ No. Please explain: _____

12. If your case was decided without oral argument, do you believe that oral argument should have been scheduled?

_____ Yes. Please explain: _____

_____ No

13. If the appeal(s) in which you were involved has been concluded, was the case decided by an opinion or an order?

_____ Opinion

_____ Order

14. Did the opinion or order adequately explain the basis for the court or panel's decision?

_____ Yes

_____ No. Please explain: _____

15. In the processing of your case, did you experience any unexpected, lengthy or unnecessary delay?

_____ Yes. Please describe: _____

_____ No

16. In your opinion, does the mandatory appeal process represent an improvement in the appellate process?

_____ Yes

_____ No

Please explain your answer. _____

17. Please list your suggestions for improving the current appeal process.

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